

Officer Oswell paid the ultimate price, and for that we are eternally grateful.

I thank CWO Scott A.M. Oswell for his service to our country and offer my deepest heartfelt condolences to his family.

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Although I join with all my colleagues in steadfast opposition to pay discrimination, this ill-advised, over-reaching, and disingenuous overhaul of civil rights law is the wrong approach.

Pay discrimination is not a partisan issue. Pay discrimination strikes at the heart of the American Dream. For more than 40 years, Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act has made it illegal for employers to determine an employee's pay-scale based on his or her gender. I wholeheartedly agree and support this law. Every American should be able to work hard, play by the rules, and make a living for his or her family. We do not stand for gender discrimination in the workplace.

This legislation is bad politics rather than good policy. H.R. 2831 was supposedly written to remedy a sad situation for one person—Lilly Ledbetter. She was apparently paid significantly less than her counterparts at Good-year Tire Company during her tenure there. Decades later Ms. Ledbetter filed a claim of discrimination. Taking her claim through the courts, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on May 29, 2007, that the statute of limitations had unfortunately run out.

Despite saying that H.R. 2831 simply restores prior law, by overturning a Supreme Court ruling against Ms. Ledbetter, in reality, Democrats will gut a decades-old statute of limitations that prevents the filing of "stale" claims and protects against abuse of the legal system.

Current law rightly provides a statute of limitations to file a discrimination claim, up to 300 days after the alleged workplace discrimination occurred. However, under this bill, employees or retirees could sue for pay discrimination years, even decades, after the alleged discrimination.

How can a company defend itself when the accused offenders left the company decades before? The answer is—they can't. And that is exactly the answer desired by the trial lawyers who support this legislation. This legislation will not end pay discrimination, but it will certainly encourage frivolous claims and lawsuits. It is inevitable that under this legislation employees will sue companies for reasons that have little if anything to do with the accused discrimination.

Not only is H.R. 2831 the wrong approach to deal with this serious issue, but this legislation also has the threat of a Presidential veto. A Presidential veto means there is no chance action will be taken on this important issue. If Democrats were serious about dealing with this issue, they would work with the President and Republicans to draft serious legislation

rather than move forward with this political stunt.

Madam Speaker, the issue of pay discrimination is too important to consider this poorly crafted, politically motivated piece of legislation. However, as much as we sympathize with Ms. Ledbetter, H.R. 2831 is bad legislation for our Nation. Let us join together, work in a bipartisan manner, and craft legislation that addresses pay discrimination while not destroying decades-worth of solid employment discrimination law. Until then, I ask my colleagues to join with me in opposing this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL DOMINICAN DAY PARADE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I join with the hundreds of thousands of Dominican residents of my congressional district and the millions of Dominicans around the world in celebrating August 12's 25th Annual Dominican Day Parade.

What was once an expression of pride through Washington Heights has grown to be one of the largest and loudest displays of cultural pride seen along New York's Sixth Avenue, a culmination of a series of events celebrating the Dominican Republic's traditional second day of Independence, El Día de la Restauración or Restoration Day.

It is also a time to remember Dominican achievements, on the island and in the U.S. A time to remind the world that many of the hemisphere's first institutions were established on the shores of Quisqueya, including the first cathedral and the oldest university. A time to remind the Nation that from the first big wave of Dominican migration in the 1960s to the most recent wave in the 1990s, Dominicans have struggled and worked hard to become a part of our national identity. Their contributions can be found in every facet of U.S. life—from baseball stars like Pedro Martinez, David "Big Papi" Ortiz or Alex Rodriguez to fashion legend Oscar de la Renta to the thousands of professionals that do battle as soldiers, doctors, lawyers, journalists, educators and social workers.

I can see that hard work in my own congressional district. Dominicans have a zest for grassroots participation, as evidenced by the number of Dominicans, especially women, who are involved in government or as leaders of professional and nonprofit organizations. They are an entrepreneurial group with a keen nose for business and a yearning to be their own boss, as evidenced by the way they have transformed the livery cab, travel, and hair salon industry.

Finally, who can deny the strong desire that Dominicans have for education. Although graduation rates for all Latinos are way too low, more and more Dominicans are choosing to go back to school, get their GED and enroll into the city's university system. This is seen by the fact that 50 percent of are Latino's that are enrolled in CUNY is of Dominican descent. In the number of after-school programs and activities that there are in northern Manhattan and other Dominican barrios.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this day and congratulating founder Nelson Peña and the hundreds of volunteers that help put on this grand display of pride. The success of our current democracy depends on us keeping our doors open to communities that energize our economy and our local neighborhoods. It depends on us remembering that we are a Nation of immigrants and that how we treat our newest Americans will go a long way to how we are treated around the world.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MOON LANDING

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on the recent anniversary of our Nation's first Moon landing, I had the privilege of attending a grand opening ceremony at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, honoring the completion of a new facility to house the historic Saturn V rocket. Because it's been a while since we've used this marvel of engineering, it's easy to overlook the fact that this rocket was capable of sending our astronauts to the Moon. Many public and industry partners played a role in restoring the rocket to its original glory, and this new facility will allow everyone to appreciate the incredible historic impact of this wonderful machine. As we continue to advocate for human space exploration and reach out further in the universe, we will always look to the Saturn V as inspiration for our most important continued quest, reaching out into space.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON CHAIRING A UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history.

For the first time ever, an Israeli diplomat, Mr. Ron Adam, Director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's U.N. Political Affairs Department, has been chosen to chair a U.N. committee: the Committee on Program and Coordination, CPC.

This 33 U.N. member body provides an important role to the functioning of the U.N., as it approves the work plan for all U.N. agencies and bodies.

Mr. Adam is highly qualified to represent his country at the U.N. He was former director of the Israel Foreign Ministry's U.N. Political Affairs Department and had been at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1990. From 1998–2002, he was a Counselor at the Israeli delegation to the U.N. Since 2004, he served as the director of the U.N. Political Affairs Department, in the Division for the United Nations and International Organizations. Last